

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 10 and 16-18 to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A bar connector assembly comprising a body having a bar seat section and a bar retainer moveable transversely relative to the seat section, the seat section being adapted to receive and position a ~~second bar~~ a concrete reinforcement bar of generally circular cross-section ~~relative to a first bar already connected to the assembly,~~ the seat section and the retainer having transversely extending mateable surfaces by which the retainer and seat section are progressively secured together by sideways sliding engagement of the mateable surfaces from a laterally offset position and the retainer being transversely moveable relative to the bar seat section between a first position allowing the ~~second~~ bar to be placed on the seat section so that tension or compression applied to the bar is in a longitudinal direction and a second position blocking removal of the second bar from the assembly and at the same time blocking longitudinal movement of the bar relative to the assembly.

2. (Currently Amended) A bar connector assembly for connecting together a pair of oppositely extending bars, at least one of which ~~has~~ is a concrete reinforcement bar of generally circular cross-section and having a loop section, said assembly comprising a main body having a bar seat section and a bar retainer, the seat section and the retainer having transversely extending mateable surfaces by which the retainer and seat section are progressively secured together by sideways sliding engagement of the mateable surfaces from a laterally offset position, the retainer being moveable

transversely relative to the seat section between a position opening the bar seat section for insertion of the loop section of the concrete reinforcement bar and a position blocking ~~the seat section from~~ insertion or removal of the loop section of a the concrete reinforcement bar to or from the seat section, ~~said the~~ main body having an opening, and ~~said the~~ seat section comprising a loop section seat accessible through the opening so that the loop section of a the concrete reinforcement bar may be secured to the main body when positioned on the loop section seat, ~~said the~~ retainer being a bridging member adapted to bridge across the opening of the main body when ~~it is in~~ said the retainer is in the blocking position and having a rigid portion being located to be positioned between the bars in ~~said the~~ blocking position, the relative dimensions of the bars, the main body and the bridging member being selected such that ~~said the~~ rigid portion of the assembly is located between the bars in ~~said the~~ blocking position to resist compressive forces which may tend to force the bars toward each other and the loop section seat resists deformation of the loop section when under tension.

3.-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) A connector assembly according to claim 2 wherein the seat section comprises an upstanding land having a curved channel into which the loop section of a the concrete reinforcement bar is positioned so that upon a load being applied to the bar in tension, the land section aids in retaining the bar in position and inhibits ~~its~~ deformation of the bar.

7. (Currently Amended) A connector assembly according to claim 2 wherein the retainer comprises a slidable member adapted to slide into the ~~body~~ seat section transversely to a bar inserted in ~~said main body~~ the seat section, whereby the seat section~~[[,]]~~ and the retainer ~~and including~~ the rigid portion ~~of the assembly~~ serve to secure the retainer and thereby the bar in position in the seat section.

8. (Currently Amended) A connector assembly according to claim 2 wherein the retainer bridges across ~~said~~ the opening such that the main body and retainer have at least one of the bars located between them.

9. (Previously Presented) A connector assembly according to claim 2 wherein the assembly is symmetrical so that two identically shaped bar loop sections of separate bars may be connected together by the assembly with the bars so connected together occupying a common plane.

10. (Currently Amended) A connector assembly according to claim 9 wherein the main body has two symmetrically positioned seat sections ~~adopted~~ adapted to receive U-shaped loop sections of projecting ~~rebars~~ concrete reinforcement bars.

11. (Original) A connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein the main body includes a retainer guideway and the retainer has a guide that travels on the guideway, the guide and guideway being tapered so that the retainer is wedged in position.

12. (Original) A connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein the main body includes a retainer guideway and the retainer has a guide that travels on the guideway, the guide being tapered so that the retainer is wedged in position.

13. (Original) A connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein the main body includes a retainer guideway and the retainer has a guide that travels on the guideway, the guideway being tapered so that the retainer is wedged in position.

14. (Previously Presented) A connector assembly according to claim 2 wherein said rigid portion of the assembly is dimensioned to engage both bars mounted therein so that compressive movement of the bars is blocked, said assembly being symmetrical in side view with the body resisting tension on one side and the retainer bridging the opposite side to resist tension so that force applied to the bars is distributed evenly through the assembly.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) A connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein the retainer is shaped to be wedged against the ~~second~~ concrete reinforcement bar.

17. (Currently Amended) A connector assembly according to claim 2 wherein the assembly has two opposed seats for respectively receiving the looped ends of

two opposed bars in confronting relation and ~~said~~ the retainer includes ~~said~~ the rigid portion which is dimensioned to be wedged between the bars.

18. (Currently Amended) A connector assembly according to claim 2 wherein the assembly has two opposed seats defined by opposed lands having opposing peripheral surfaces shaped to respectively receive the looped ends of a pair of bars in confronting relation and wrapped around the respective lands and ~~said~~ the retainer is wedged between the bars in ~~said~~ the blocking position to apply an outward force to the bars and bridges across the lands applying an inward force to each of the lands tending to prevent separation of the lands when tensioned.

19.-26. (Cancelled).

27. (Original) A connector assembly according to claim 2 wherein the main body includes a retainer guideway and the retainer has a guide that travels on the guideway, the guide and guideway being tapered so that the retainer is wedged in position.

28. (Original) A connector assembly according to claim 2 wherein the main body includes a retainer guideway and the retainer has a guide that travels on the guideway, the guide being tapered so that the retainer is wedged in position.

29. (Original) A connector assembly according to claim 2 wherein the main body includes a retainer guideway and the retainer has a guide that travels on the guideway, the guideway being tapered so that the retainer is wedged in position.

30.-34. (Cancelled).